

### QUEBEC'S DIFFICULTIES.

As our readers are aware, proceedings were some time ago taken against R. W. Bro. Isaacson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, by W. Bro. Wm. Ross, on account of the name of the latter having been improperly published as a suspended member for non-payment of dues. We are glad to see from the following (which reached us in printed form,) that the trouble has been satisfactorily adjusted, and it is only fair to W. Bro. Ross for us to say we believe he was right in his contention throughout, viz., that he never was a member of King Solomon's Lodge, Quebec Register.

For some time past there have been discussions of differences between the lodges of English Register and those of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. These have assumed so public a character as to become a subject of general interest, even outside of the Craft, owing to recent publications reflecting very seriously upon the conduct and faith of the English lodges, and misrepresentations of the position of William Ross, Worshipful Master of St. George's Lodge, English Register, in particular. Proceedings for libel were resorted to by him for the purpose of vindicating his own position and adjusting to the satisfaction of the Craft the unhappy differences that existed, and had been, by the publication of certain letters in the public press, removed beyond the privacy of Masonic jurisdiction. The circumstance which led to the present affair was the secession of King Solomon Lodge, Scotch Register, for the purpose of affiliation with the Grand Lodge of Quebec. Mr. Ross, with seven other members, objected to the change of allegiance, still maintaining their

loyalty toward the Grand Lodge of Scotland, with which they have been so long identified.

The body who unconstitutionally renounced their former authority not only continued the name of Mr. Ross and his confreres who had refused to secede, but even went the length of declaring him suspended for the non-payment of dues, which was subsequently reported to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and published in the widely circulated annual report of the Grand Secretary. The remonstrances of Mr. Ross to Mr. J. H. Isaacson, the Grand Secretary, of the 6th and 13th of June, seeking for an amicable erasure of his suspension and settlement, having been unsatisfactory he took legal proceedings at once. Although the legal proceedings had been commenced, Mr. Ross was, even at that date, not averse to an amicable settlement of the difficulty, providing justice was done him and his lodge, and when it was proposed to him that his suspension be erased, and a correct statement of affairs and an apology approved of by him should be published, he consented on these terms to discontinue the proceedings upon the payment of costs. Mr. Ross accordingly accepted the following letters:—

THE GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC, }  
A. F. & A. M., G. Sec's Office, }  
Montreal, 12th Sept., 1883. }

Wm. Ross, Esq., W. Master St. George's Lodge, No. 440, E. R.:

WOB. SIR AND BRO.,—It having been found on investigation that you should not have been returned by King Solomon Lodge under this jurisdiction as a suspended member for non-payment of dues, I regret that, in my capacity as Grand Secretary, having charge of the printing of Grand Lodge Proceedings in which such return appeared, I was instrumental in publishing such suspension.

I am yours, &c.,

JOHN H. ISAACSON,  
Grand Sec.